

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 4, as follows:

In accordance with the present strengthened substrate and method, a catalyst washcoat is selectively disposed on the substrate 10 so as to maximize substrate strength in those areas requiring the greatest amount of structural integrity. Preferably, the washcoat is selectively disposed on the substrate 10 walls so as to maximize substrate strength in the area of the perimeter cells 12. While perimeter walls 14 have the same wall thickness as interior walls 18, the perimeter walls 14 in FIGS. 2A-2C appear thicker than the interior walls 18 due to the greater amount of washcoat applied to the perimeter walls 14. As substrate walls are thinned, washcoat contribution to catalyst strength increases. On ultra-thin walled substrates having wall thicknesses of less than about 0.089 millimeters, washcoat accounts for about 100 % to about 200 % increase in isostatic strength. By increasing the amount of washcoat in perimeter cells 12, catalyst strength is tailored to meet the demands of various converter assembly processes and end-use environments. As we strengthen the catalyst with selective washcoat application, a portion of the outermost perimeter cells, such as, for example, partial perimeter cells 20, may become substantially completely plugged by the washcoat.